(c) Mr. Kaufman had discussions with the Governor and other senior officials and met a large cross-section of political leaders, jurists, journalists and other personalities

(d) and (e) Mr. Kaufman had advocated a peaceful and negotiated solution of the Kashmir question. In this context he had put forward the idea of a possible Commonwealth role in resolving the Kashmir issue. It was impressed upon Mr. Kaufman that the Government hoped to resolve this matter with Pakistan bilterally and through peaceful negotiations in terms of the Simla Agreement and that there was no question of any mediation, good offices or intervention by any third party, including the Commonwealth.

Meeting of G-15 sumit at Caracas

@2568. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the outcome of the G-15 Summit held at Caracas last month in which the Prime Minister participated and the progress of special projects of South-South co-operation that were agreed upon at the first summit at Kuala Lumpur last year ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : The Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Co-operation (G-15) that met in Caracas from 27-29 November, 1991, adopted a Joint Communique putting forward their point of view, on major international econonic issues and embodying decisions to promote South-South cooperation through specific projects. It also decided a series of follow up measures to coordinate future activities of the G-15. India articulated the position of the G-15 countries on the evolution of a consensus on ensuring that development remained at the centre of international attention and that modalities were found to place the issues of economic development and international co-operation at the centre of the multilateral agenda. This was fully reflected in the Joint Communique adopted at the Caracas Summit, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

Three projects were identified at the first G-15 Summit at Kuala Lumpur for immediate implementation, namely, the South Investment Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC); a financial mechanism for the promotion of trade among South countries ; and setting up of a Business and Investment Forum. SITTDEC was established during the Caracas Summit by the adoption of its Statutes, which were signed by the Foreign Ministers present at the Summit. The Summit also endorsed the draft agreement on the proposed Multilateral Payments Arrangement and requested Malayis., the coordinator for this item to take necessary steps to implement this arrangement. A meeting of businessmen and industrialists of G-15 was held concurrently with the Caracas Summit, which is likely to become a regular feature of the future Summits. A group of Indian businessmen participated in this meeting. Besides, the Summit also welcomed the intention of Yugoslavia to convene the Business and Investment Forum of the G-15 countries in the first half of 1992.

Among other projects identified and agreed to in principle at the Kuala Lumpur Summit were two Indian projects on the establishment of a Gene Bank for Medicinal Plants and Herbs among Developing Countries and on Solar Energy Applications. India convened a meeting of a Group of Experts from G-15 member countries in New Delhi from September 23-25, 1991. to refine and finalise the two projects. The Caracas Summit has approved the two projects and endorsed their implementation.

Out come of G-15 meet in Caracas

2569. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the outcome of G-15 meet in Caracas and what was the cowposition of the Covernment of India team;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the member countries have disociated themselves from this meet ;

(c) whether India has been adversely affected with such dissociation ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what is India's reaction thereto?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1759, transferred from the 10th December, 1991.